

# OHIOAN NAMED SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

• Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the outstanding entrepreneurial achievement of a resident from my home state of Ohio, Mr. Ross O. Youngs. The President of Univenture Incorporated, Ross was recently named as Small Business Person of the Year. The decision was made by Vice President AL GORE and Aida Alvarez, Administrator of the Small Business Administration. Mr. Youngs was selected from a highly competitive field of 53 small businesses representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam.

Ross Youngs began Univenture 10 years ago with an idea, hard work, perseverance and a limited budget. In the long standing tradition of the American Entrepreneur, Ross took a \$20,000 personal bank loan and started a company in his basement. Over the following nine years, two Small Business Administration guaranteed loans helped Mr. Youngs expand production. Sales have risen in 10 years from \$111,000 to \$15 million. Ross Youngs' company Univenture has proven itself to be an outstanding example of American small business.

Univenture is not only a successful company but also a contributor to the community in a number of ways. The firm works with a local organization to employ people with disabilities, Univenture supports the Columbus Police Department's Shop-With-A-Cop Program to provide gifts for needy children during the holiday season and contributes to the Wexner Center for the Arts.

Mr. Youngs continues to be an example of outstanding achievement in business and his community. It is with great pride that I recognize Mr. Ross Youngs as the National Small Business Person of the Year during National Small Business Week. I extend my congratulations and wish him continued success.●

## CRIME IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY ACT

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise today as an original cosponsor of the "Crime Identification Technology Act" recently introduced by my colleague from Ohio, Senator DEWINE. I applaud the Senator from Ohio's fine efforts in getting this important bill introduced and shepherding it through the Senate Judiciary Committee so quickly.

In my view S. 2022 will provide significant assistance to federal, state, and local law enforcement groups as they work to integrate their identification, information, communications, and forensic systems. Currently, federal, state, and local crime databases are not universally maintained in a format that makes them compatible with one another. Right now law enforcement officials often have trouble

accessing information and transferring it among themselves.

Important technologies such as the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) which is operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the National Integrated Ballistics Network, and the National Incident-Based Reporting System all would be much more effective if all states and localities had compatible systems. The federal government has provided agencies with the funds necessary to create this technology. Unfortunately, a number of states, and local communities in particular, often have not had sufficient funds to implement them. Moreover, particular states and localities often lack sufficient incentive to standardize because standardization's benefits become clear only if all states and localities participate. Thus it is important that the federal government provide assistance in order to maintain a uniform national system.

The "Crime Identification Technology Act" will better enable federal, state, and local governments to work in tandem in the fight against crime. In a nutshell, this bill authorizes \$250 million in grant money over five years to states in conjunction with local governments and Indian tribes, to establish or improve information and identification technologies and make them more compatible with one another and with federal systems. Grants will be distributed by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, which will consult with the Governor of each state to determine how much money is needed and for which programs. For example, some states may feel they need better fingerprint-scanned devices while others may want to integrate their ballistics programs into the National Integrated Ballistics Network.

Federal and state governments share an interest in the interstate compatibility of these technology systems and in quickly identifying whether an individual has a federal, state, or local record. Ensuring the accuracy and accessibility of criminal history records must be a joint endeavor among law enforcement agencies at all levels. This legislation will be of critical assistance in bringing this about.

I urge my colleagues to join me, my colleague from Ohio, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, and a number of other colleagues in supporting this important piece of legislation.●

## TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL CHARLES R. LARSON, UNITED STATES NAVY

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I rise to honor a remarkable naval officer and good friend, Admiral Charles R. Larson. Having served a distinguished career in the United States Navy, Admiral Larson will enjoy a well deserved retirement after forty years of service. Over his forty years of service, Admiral Larson has served in 11 positions, span-

ning more than nineteen years as a flag officer. Admiral Larson is a man of honor, integrity, and patriotism.

For the past four years, Admiral Larson has served as the 55th Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy. It was in this position that I got to know and admire him. Under Admiral Larson's leadership, honor and discipline were restored following the most scandal-ridden period of the Academy's history. As a member of the Naval Academy Board of Visitors, I worked closely with Admiral Larson as he developed and implemented his successful reform agenda. I was highly impressed with the tough choices he had to make to change the Academy. Under his leadership, he led the full integration of women into the academy. He also initiated many new programs and improved the curriculum. Always he led the midshipmen by example.

We in Maryland are very proud of the United States Naval Academy. It is important to our state and our nation. The Board of Visitors recently conducted a comprehensive investigation of the Naval Academy. We concluded that while we must continue to improve the Naval Academy, this vital national resource is on the right track and will produce top-notch cadets for the twenty-first Century. Admiral Larson's leadership is what made this possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend Admiral Larson's wife, Sally, and his family, who have greatly contributed to the success of his naval career. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Admiral Larson for his service to our nation. I wish Admiral Larson the very best for the future.●

## HARBOR MAINTENANCE TAX

• Mr. BREAU. Mr. President, since colonial times, waterborne commerce has been key to the economic growth and vitality of our Nation. It has been especially important for my home state of Louisiana. The entire U.S. economy, and that of Louisiana, depends on an efficient and reliable transportation system to remain competitive in domestic and international markets. Navigable channels, railways, highways, and ports are links in the transportation chain that allow manufacturers, buyers, and sellers to send and receive goods quickly, safely, and efficiently. Congress has recognized the importance and need for promoting a system of seamless intermodal connections, from ship to shore, and then to rail or truck, and ultimately to the consumer's local retail store. The original ISTEA legislation, was named for intermodalism, in recognition of the importance of fostering and promoting intermodalism, and I am confident that ISTEA II will continue our efforts to expand and modernize the infrastructure needed to facilitate intermodalism.